IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1(Currently amended).   A computer-implemented method for providing prerequisite checking in a system for creating a content object, being one of a book, a document, a collection of images, a collection of musical selections, a video and a multimedia object, from a plurality of individual content entities including content for the content object and stored in a data repository as a plurality of individual file objects, some of the content entities being prerequisites to others of the content entities and the content object being defined by a list indicating the content entities from the data repository specified by a user for the content object, the method comprising the steps of:

adding or removing a selected content entity to or from the list indicating the content entities from the data repository specified by the user for the content object to add or remove the selected content entity to or from the content object, wherein a prerequisite content entity is associated with another content entity and designated for inclusion in each content object for which that other content entity is selected and placed, and wherein designations of prerequisite content entities for content entities within the data repository are stored external of the individual file objects containing the content entities,

examining the stored designations of prerequisite content entities and determining if the selected content entity has any prerequisite content entities designated for that content entity,

and if so,

automatically adding or removing the designated prerequisite content entities to or from the list <u>without further user intervention beyond</u> ~~in direct response to user interaction~~ initiating

the addition or removal of the selected content entity to add or remove the prerequisite content

entities to or from the content object <u>in addition to the addition or removal of the selected content</u>

<u>entity</u>.

2(Previously presented). The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein one or

more of the prerequisites are conditional.

3(Previously presented). The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the

conditions for applying a prerequisite are defined in one or more rules.

4(Previously presented). The computer-implemented method of claim 3, in the case of

more than one of the rules pertaining to the same prerequisite, further comprising the step of

reducing the rule set if possible into a smaller set of rules.

5(Previously presented). The computer-implemented method of claim 3, further

comprising the step of rewriting any negative rules as positive rules.

6(Currently amended). A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly

embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for

providing prerequisite checking in a system for creating a content object, being one of a book, a

document, a collection of images, a collection of musical selections, a video and a multimedia

object, from a plurality of individual content entities including content for the content object and stored in a data repository as a plurality of individual file objects, some of the content entities being prerequisites to others of the content entities and the content object being defined by a list indicating the content entities from the data repository specified by a user for the content object, the method comprising the steps of:

adding or removing a selected content entity to or from the list indicating the content entities from the data repository specified by the user for the content object to add or remove the selected content entity to or from the content object, wherein a prerequisite content entity is associated with another content entity and designated for inclusion in each content object for which that other content entity is selected and placed, and wherein designations of prerequisite content entities for content entities within the data repository are stored external of the individual file objects containing the content entities,

examining the stored designations of prerequisite content entities and determining if the selected content entity has any prerequisite content entities designated for that content entity,

and if so,

automatically adding or removing the designated prerequisite content entities to or from the list <u>without further user intervention beyond</u> ~~in direct response to user interaction~~ initiating the addition or removal of the selected content entity to add or remove the prerequisite content entities to or from the content object <u>in addition to the addition or removal of the selected content entity</u>.

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7(Previously presented). The program storage device of claim 6, wherein one or more of the prerequisites are conditional.

8(Previously presented). The program storage device of claim 6, wherein the conditions for applying a prerequisite are defined in one or more rules.

9(Previously presented). The program storage device of claim 8, in the case of more than one of the rules pertaining to the same prerequisite, the method further comprising the step of reducing the rule set if possible into a smaller set of rules.

10(Previously presented). The program storage device of claim 8, wherein the method further comprises the step of rewriting any negative rules as positive rules.

11(Currently amended). A system for providing prerequisite checking in a system for creating a content object, being one of a book, a document, a collection of images, a collection of musical selections, a video and a multimedia object, from a plurality of individual content entities including content for the content object and stored in a data repository as a plurality of individual file objects, some of the content entities being prerequisites to others of the content entities and the content object being defined by a list indicating the content entities from the data repository specified by a user for the content object, the system <u>for providing prerequisite checking</u> comprising:

<u>a computer system including:</u>

means for adding or removing a selected content entity to or from the list indicating the content entities from the data repository specified by the user for the content object to add or remove the selected content entity to or from the content object, wherein a prerequisite content entity is associated with another content entity and designated for inclusion in each content object for which that other content entity is selected and placed, and wherein designations of prerequisite content entities for content entities within the data repository are stored external of the individual file objects containing the content entities,

means for examining the stored designations of prerequisite content entities and determining if the selected content entity has any prerequisite content entities designated for that content entity, and

means for automatically adding or removing the designated prerequisite content entities to or from the list <u>without further user intervention beyond</u> ~~in direct response to user interaction~~ initiating the addition or removal of the selected content entity to add or remove the prerequisite content entities to or from the content object <u>in addition to the addition or removal of the selected content entity</u>.

12(Original). The system of claim 11, wherein one or more of the prerequisites are conditional.

13(Original). The system of claim 11, wherein the conditions for applying a prerequisite are defined in one or more rules.

14(Previously presented). The system of claim 13, further comprising means for reducing the rule set if possible into a smaller set of rules in the case of more than one of the rules pertaining to the same prerequisite.

15(Original). The system of claim 13, further comprising means for rewriting any negative rules as positive rules.